

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1455

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

V ZS: PFOR, GE,SXS, SP

SUBJECT: GDR RECALLS AMBASSADOR FROM MADRID OVER SPANISH EXECUTIONS

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ON SEPT. 29 REPORTED THE RECALL OF GDR AMBASSADOR PETER LORF FROM MADRID IN PROTEST AGAINST THE CARRYING OUT OF THE DEATH SENTENCE AGAINST TWO BASQUE SEPARATISTS AND THREE MEMBERS OF THE ANTI-FASCIST REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT OVER THE WEEKEND OF SEPT 27. THE LEADERS ARE DESCRIBED IN EAST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS AS "SPANISH PATRIOTS", AGAINST WHOSE EXECUTION NUMEROUS COUNTRIES, INCLUDING MANY IN WESTERN EUROPE, HAVE PROTESTED. ACCORDING TO ND, THE LAST-MINUTE DECISION OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO COMMUTE THE SENTENCES OF SIX OTHER PERSONS AND TO EXECUTE THE FIVE BY SHOOTING RATHER THAN BY STRANGULATION, DID NOT LESSEN THE IMPACT OF THESE EXECUTIONS ON THE WORLDWIDE PUBLIC. THE PAPER QUOTED WESTERN PRESS SOURCES TO THE EFFECT

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THAT THE UNITED STATES, WHICH IS PRESENTLY IN

PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING A NEW MILITARY BASE AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN, HAS MADE NO COMMENTARY UPON THE EXECUTIONS.

2. NUMEROUS GDR ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE TRADE UNION, YOUTH, AND NATIONAL FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, HAVE SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT HERE IN PROTESTING THE EXECUTIONS THROUGH PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS AND PETITIONS DIRECTED TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, DEMANDING THE COMMUTATION OF THE SENTENCES IN THESE CASES.COOPER

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